

Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives late yesterday approved legislation giving priority designation to Multnomah County's "Stomp Out Meth Project," a methamphetamine addiction prevention program. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) requested congressional support for the project earlier this year.

"The Stomp Out Meth Project is an ideal Oregon solution, bringing together a unique combination of tools including prevention and prosecution to tackle the methamphetamine problems in Multnomah County," said Blumenauer.

Priority designation was given to the Stomp Out Meth Program as part of a larger bill funding U.S. Department of Justice Programs. A specific funding level will be included for the program later in the legislative process. Multnomah County created STOMP as a comprehensive response to the local meth problem. This project provides resources for four components essential in the fight against meth; law enforcement response; treatment programs; prevention media campaigns; and support for prosecution.

Specifically, STOMP funding will be used for the following:

- Increased law enforcement capacity by purchasing a hazmat command and response vehicle and two additional vehicles capable of navigating remote areas of the county and towing large equipment trailers when called upon to investigate, seize and remediate meth labs. The hazmat response vehicle will be outfitted with equipment for response, assessment, mitigation and processing of drug labs.
- Development and production of two media campaigns to prevent meth use. Media campaigns will be targeted at two high-risk groups- young women and Hispanic youth.
- Creation of a meth treatment program focused on adolescents.
- Establishment of an elite "Meth Strike Team." This team will be composed of four Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) and a clerical staff person who will be dedicated entirely to the prosecution of meth-related crimes. These DDAs will focus on property crime, identity theft, drug prosecution and juvenile dependency/custody.

Priority designation for the program was included in H.R.5672, the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations bill, which passed the House yesterday. The legislation must now be approved by the U.S. Senate.